(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Law Commission in its 177th Report; and

(c) the action contemplated by Government on the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c)The information is being collected and it will be laid on theTable of the House.

Sexual harassment cases

591. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to speed up the hearing of sexual harassment cases;

(b) if so, Government's plan keeping in view the public mind; and

(c) by when such an Act is likely to be introduced in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Both the Government and the Judiciary are concerned with the quick disposal of pending cases including cases of sexual harassment.

The National Commission for Women has formulated a Code of Conduct for work place in the year 1998 putting down the Supreme Court guidelines in a simple manner and circulated it widely amongst all Government/Public Sector Organisation/State Women Commission to enable it to percolate to the lowest functionaries. The Commission has also instituted a series of interactive meetings with Public Sector Undertakings/Banks/Universities/Educational Institutions/Hotels/Media etc. to assess the extent of implementation of the guidelines.

The National Commission for Women is in the process of drafting a Bill on Sexual Harassment of Women at their Workplace.

High Court Bench at Thiruvananthapuram

592. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States in the country which are not having High Court in its State Capital;